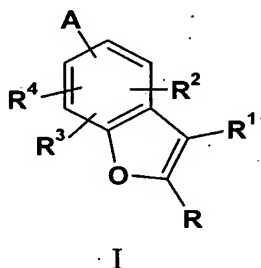


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

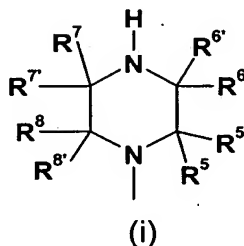
Please amend Claims 1-6 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) The compounds of Formula I:



where:

A is a piperazine of formula:



R is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are independently hydrogen, halo, dihalomethyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethyl, cyano, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, -C(O)NHR<sup>9</sup>, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy and hydroxy;

R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are independently hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, hydroxymethyl, halomethyl, dihalomethyl, trihalomethyl, or benzyloxymethyl;

R<sup>5'</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, provided that R<sup>5'</sup> may be methyl only when R<sup>5</sup> is other than hydrogen; or R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>5'</sup>, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^6$  is hydrogen or methyl, provided that  $R^6$  may be methyl only when  $R^6$  is other than hydrogen; or  $R^6$  and  $R^{6'}$ , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^7$  is hydrogen or methyl, provided that  $R^7$  may be methyl only when  $R^7$  is other than hydrogen; or  $R^7$  and  $R^{7'}$ , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

*AB*  
 $R^8$  is hydrogen or methyl, provided that  $R^8$  may be methyl only when  $R^8$  is other than hydrogen; or  $R^8$  and  $R^{8'}$ , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^9$  is  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl where the alkyl chain is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of phenyl and pyridyl;

or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof subject to the following provisos:

a) when  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are all selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano,  $C^1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy, or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, neither  $R^6$  nor  $R^7$  may be selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl unless:

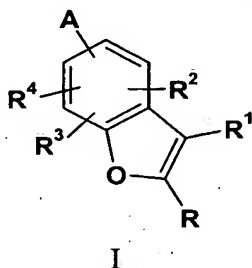
1.  $R$  is halo;
2.  $R^1$  is halo or phenyl
3.  $R^{6'}$  or  $R^{7'}$  is methyl; or
4.  $R^5$  or  $R^8$  are other than hydrogen;

b) when  $R$ ,  $R^1$ , and two of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are hydrogen and one of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , or  $R^4$  is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, or methoxy, at least one of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ , or  $R^8$  must be other than hydrogen;

c) when  $R^1$  is bromo or  $R$  is methyl, at least one of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  must be other than hydrogen; and

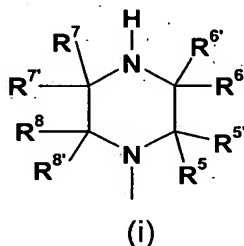
d) no more than two of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ , and  $R^8$  may be other than hydrogen.

2. (Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation which comprises, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient, a compound of Formula I:



where:

A is a piperazine of formula:



R is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are independently hydrogen, halo, dihalomethyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethyl, cyano, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, -C(O)NHR<sup>9</sup>, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy and hydroxy;

R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are independently hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, hydroxymethyl, halomethyl, dihalomethyl, trihalomethyl, or benzyloxymethyl;

R<sup>5'</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, provided that R<sup>5'</sup> may be methyl only when R<sup>5</sup> is other than hydrogen; or R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>5'</sup>, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^6$  is hydrogen or methyl, provided that  $R^6$  may be methyl only when  $R^6$  is other than hydrogen; or  $R^6$  and  $R^6$ , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^7$  is hydrogen or methyl, provided that  $R^7$  may be methyl only when  $R^7$  is other than hydrogen; or  $R^7$  and  $R^7$ , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^8$  is hydrogen or methyl, provided that  $R^8$  may be methyl only when  $R^8$  is other than hydrogen; or  $R^8$  and  $R^8$ , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^9$  is  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl where the alkyl chain is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of phenyl and pyridyl;

or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof subject to the following provisos:

a) when  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are all selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy, or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, neither  $R^6$  nor  $R^7$  may be selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl unless:

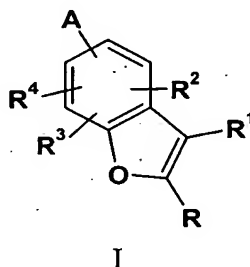
1. R is halo;
2.  $R^1$  is halo or phenyl
3.  $R^6$  or  $R^7$  is methyl; or
4.  $R^5$  or  $R^8$  are other than hydrogen;

b) when R,  $R^1$ , and two of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are hydrogen and one of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , or  $R^4$  is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, or methoxy, at least one of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ , or  $R^8$  must be other than hydrogen;

c) when  $R^1$  is bromo or R is methyl, at least one of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  must be other than hydrogen; and

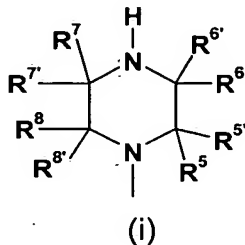
d) no more than two of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ , and  $R^8$  may be other than hydrogen.

3. (Amended) A method for increasing activation of the 5-HT<sub>2C</sub> receptor in mammals, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such activation a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compounds of Formula I:



where:

A is a piperazine of formula:



R is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are independently hydrogen, halo, dihalomethyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethyl, cyano, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, -C(O)NHR<sup>9</sup>, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy and hydroxy;

R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are independently hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, hydroxymethyl, halomethyl, dihalomethyl, trihalomethyl, or benzyloxymethyl;

R<sup>5'</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, provided that R<sup>5'</sup> may be methyl only when R<sup>5</sup> is other than hydrogen; or R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>5'</sup>, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^{6'}$  is hydrogen or methyl, provided that  $R^{6'}$  may be methyl only when  $R^6$  is other than hydrogen; or  $R^6$  and  $R^{6'}$ , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

A2  $R^{7'}$  is hydrogen or methyl, provided that  $R^{7'}$  may be methyl only when  $R^7$  is other than hydrogen; or  $R^7$  and  $R^{7'}$ , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^{8'}$  is hydrogen or methyl, provided that  $R^{8'}$  may be methyl only when  $R^8$  is other than hydrogen; or  $R^8$  and  $R^{8'}$ , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^9$  is  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl where the alkyl chain is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of phenyl and pyridyl;

or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof subject to the following provisos:

a) when  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are all selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy, or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, neither  $R^6$  nor  $R^7$  may be selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl unless:

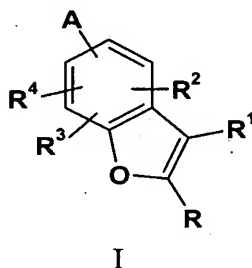
1. R is halo;
2.  $R^1$  is halo or phenyl
3.  $R^{6'}$  or  $R^{7'}$  is methyl; or
4.  $R^5$  or  $R^8$  are other than hydrogen;

b) when R,  $R^1$ , and two of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are hydrogen and one of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , or  $R^4$  is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, or methoxy, at least one of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ , or  $R^8$  must be other than hydrogen;

c) when  $R^1$  is bromo or R is methyl, at least one of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  must be other than hydrogen; and

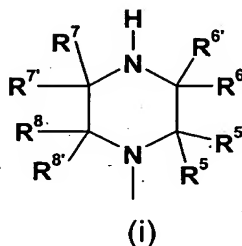
d) no more than two of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ , and  $R^8$  may be other than hydrogen.

4. (Amended) A method for the treatment of obesity in mammals, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such activation a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of Formula I:



where:

A is a piperazine of formula:



R is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are independently hydrogen, halo, dihalomethyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethyl, cyano, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy carbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, -C(O)NHR<sup>9</sup>, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy and hydroxy;

R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are independently hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, hydroxymethyl, halomethyl, dihalomethyl, trihalomethyl, or benzyloxymethyl;

R<sup>5'</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, provided that R<sup>5'</sup> may be methyl only when R<sup>5</sup> is other than hydrogen; or R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>5'</sup>, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, provided that R<sup>7</sup> may be methyl only when R<sup>7</sup> is other than hydrogen; or R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>7'</sup>, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

R<sup>9</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl where the alkyl chain is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of phenyl and pyridyl;

a) when R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are all selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, C<sup>1</sup>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, neither R<sup>6</sup> nor R<sup>7</sup> may be selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl unless:

1. R is halo;
2. R<sup>1</sup> is halo or phenyl
3. R<sup>6'</sup> or R<sup>7'</sup> is methyl; or
4. R<sup>5</sup> or R<sup>8</sup> are other than hydrogen;

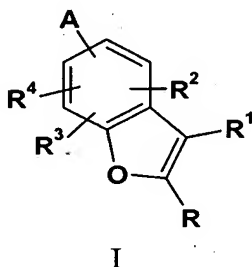
b) when R, R<sup>1</sup>, and two of R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are hydrogen and one of R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, or R<sup>4</sup> is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, or methoxy, at least one of R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, or R<sup>8</sup> must be other than hydrogen;

c) when R<sup>1</sup> is bromo or R is methyl, at least one of R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> must be other than hydrogen; and

d) no more than two of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ , and  $R^8$  may be other than hydrogen.

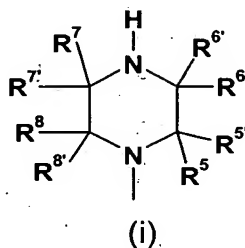


5. (Amended) A method for the treatment of depression in mammals, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such activation a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of Formula I:



where:

A is a piperazine of formula:



R is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are independently hydrogen, halo, dihalomethyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethyl, cyano, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, -C(O)NHR<sup>9</sup>, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy and hydroxy;

R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are independently hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, hydroxymethyl, halomethyl, dihalomethyl, trihalomethyl, or benzyloxymethyl;

R<sup>5'</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, provided that R<sup>5'</sup> may be methyl only when R<sup>5</sup> is other than hydrogen; or R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>5'</sup>, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^6$  is hydrogen or methyl, provided that  $R^6$  may be methyl only when  $R^6$  is other than hydrogen; or  $R^6$  and  $R^6$ , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^7$  is hydrogen or methyl, provided that  $R^7$  may be methyl only when  $R^7$  is other than hydrogen; or  $R^7$  and  $R^7$ , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^8$  is hydrogen or methyl, provided that  $R^8$  may be methyl only when  $R^8$  is other than hydrogen; or  $R^8$  and  $R^8$ , together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^9$  is  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl where the alkyl chain is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of phenyl and pyridyl;

or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof subject to the following provisos:

a) when  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are all selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano,  $C^1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy, or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, neither  $R^6$  nor  $R^7$  may be selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl unless:

1.  $R$  is halo;
2.  $R^1$  is halo or phenyl
3.  $R^6$  or  $R^7$  is methyl; or
4.  $R^5$  or  $R^8$  are other than hydrogen;

b) when  $R$ ,  $R^1$ , and two of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are hydrogen and one of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , or  $R^4$  is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, or methoxy, at least one of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ , or  $R^8$  must be other than hydrogen;

c) when  $R^1$  is bromo or  $R$  is methyl, at least one of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  must be other than hydrogen; and

d) no more than two of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ , and  $R^8$  may be other than hydrogen.

6. (Amended) The method of Claim 3 where the mammal is human.

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Please add the following new Claims:

7. (New) The method of Claim 4 where the mammal is human.

8. (New) The method of Claim 5 where the mammal is human.

9. (New) A method for the treatment of obsessive compulsive disorder in mammals, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of Formula I of Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

10. (New) The method of Claim 9 where the mammal is human.

11. (New) A compound of Claim 1 where A is attached at either the 4- or 7-position of the benzofuran nucleus.

12. (New) A compound of Claim 11 where A is attached at the 7-position of the benzofuran nucleus.

13. (New) A compound according to Claim 12 where  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, difluoromethyl, or trifluoromethyl.

14. (New) A compound according to Claim 12 where one of  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ , and  $R^8$  is other than hydrogen and the substituent is in the S configuration, and  $R^{5'}$ ,  $R^{6'}$ ,  $R^{7'}$ , and  $R^{8'}$  are each hydrogen.

15. (New) A compound according to Claim 12 where  $R^5$  is other than hydrogen,  $R^{5'}$  is methyl, and  $R^6$ ,  $R^{6'}$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^{7'}$ ,  $R^8$ , and  $R^{8'}$  are each hydrogen.

16. (New) A compound according to Claim 12 where  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are each other than hydrogen and are in the cis configuration with regard to each other, and  $R^{5'}$ ,  $R^{6'}$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^{7'}$ ,  $R^8$ , and  $R^{8'}$  are each hydrogen.

17. (New) A compound according to Claim 12 where  $R^5$  and  $R^7$  are each other than hydrogen, and  $R^{5'}$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^{6'}$ ,  $R^{7'}$ ,  $R^8$ , and  $R^{8'}$  are each hydrogen.

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